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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /085 W
----------028410 020605Z /15
R 011145Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9574
INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USUN NEW YORK 400

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CT, KN, KS
SUBJ: ESCALATION OF KOREAN COMPETITION IN CAE

BEGIN SUMMARY: COMPETITION BETWEEN THE TWO KOREAS IN THE CAE HAS ESCALATED A NOTCH WITH A BELLIGERENT PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS SPEECH BY THE FIRST NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR. WE ARE PROTESTING HIS ATTACK ON THE US. BOTH KOREAS WILL HAVE MINISTERIAL LEVEL DELEGATIONS FOR THE CORONATION, AND SOME NORTH KOREAN TECHNICIANS HAVE ARRIVED TO LOOK AT POTENTIAL AID PROJECTS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FIRST NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO THE CAE, LEE MAN SUK, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO EMPEROR BOKASSA NOVEMBER 30. IN HIS SPEECH, CARRIED VERBATIM ON NATIONAL RADIO, LEE EULOGIZED KIM IL SUNG AND ACCUSED THE US AND SOUTH KOREA OF TRYING TO BLOCK REUNIFICATION AND TO PROVOKE A NEW WAR. BOKASSA REPLIED IN CONCILIATORY TERMS, PRAISING KIM IL SUNG AND SUPPORTING PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION.

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2. THE SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY PLANS TO PROTEST DIRECTLY TO BOKASSA ABOUT THE BELLIGERENT TONE OF THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS. WE ARE PREPARING A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TAKING EXCEPTION TO THE AMBASSADOR'S ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE BROADCAST OF HIS REMARKS ON CAE RADIO. WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WHEN THE OCCASION ARISES.

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3. THE ARRIVAL OF THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR COMES AFTER A PERIOD DURING WHICH NORTH KOREA HAD DRAWN ITS EMBASSY IN BANGUI DOWN TO A SINGLE ATTACHE. TWO CAE EMISSARIES VISITED PYONGYANG SEPARATELY IN OCTOBER, PRESUMABLY TO URGE THAT NORTH KOREA PUT MORE SUBSTANCE IN THE RELATIONSHIP.

4. THE NORTH KOREAN FINANCE MINISTER HAS ALREADY ARRIVED AS HIS GOVERNMENTS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE CORONATION. SOUTH KOREAN SOURCES BELIEVE HE WILL GO ON TO VISIT OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA. THERE ARE ALSO FIVE NORTH KOREAN TECHNICIANS IN BANGUI TO STUDY POSSIBLE AID PROJECTS. SOUTH KOREA WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE CORONATION BY ITS MINISTER OF NATIONAL UNIFICATION, LEE YOUNG HEE.

5. WE DOUBT THAT IN FACT THE NORTH KOREANS WILL BE ABLE TO COMPETE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE SOUTH KOREANS FOR INFLUENCE IN THE CAE. THE SOUTH KOREANS CONTINUE TO GET MAXIMUM MILEAGE FROM SMALL, WELL PLACED DONATIONS. THEIR $50,000 CASH CONTRIBUTION FOR THE CORON-ATION WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND THE ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND GOVERNMENT WAS SUMMONED FOR THE CEREMONY MARKING THE SOUTH KOREAN DONATION OF FIVE RADIO-EQUIPPED STATION WAGONS FOR THE SURETE IMPERIALE. ON THE LATTER OCCASION THE EMPEROR EXPRESSED WARM PRAISE AND FRIENDSHIP FOR SOUTH KOREA.
QUAINTON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Subject: ESCALATION OF KOREAN COMPETITION IN CAE BEGIN SUMMARY: COMPETITION BETWEEN THE TWO KOREAS IN THE CAE HAS ESCALATED A NOTCH WITH A BELLIGERENT PRESEN TAT
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, CT, KN, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
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